bold reforms carried out by the Government. He did not ask for a legislative enactment. All that was necessary was to introduce a clause in the Education Code that married boys should not be admitted in the Sirkar Secondary Schools. The Government were doing so much to elevate the depressed classes; but the measure advocated by him was necessary in order to retain the Brahmin community in its present position. He therefore commended the proposal for the anxious and serious consideration of the Government and requested that something might be done for maintaining and improving national efficiency.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Public Instruction will be asked to report on the subject. The Division Peishkars will also be asked to consult the people affected and report what their sentiments are.

109. The need for making Vernacular Primary Education compulsory throughout the State, and for teaching Commercial subjects in the Secondary Schools.

Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Trading Classes, Nagercoil) said that the adverse remarks made by the Member from Agastiswaram had formed the subject of conversation among the other Members of the Assembly, and they were all agreed in the view that the remarks were quite uncalled for and unjust. The constituents in each taluk sent their representatives to the Assembly only to submit their grievances and requests, and if any Member transgressed those limits and said anything beyond, that should be regarded as his own personal opinion.

Proceeding to his subject, the Member stated that at present vernacular primary education in Classes I to IV was free; but he said it should be more *compulsory* also. The necessity for, and the advantages accruing from, declaring primary education compulsory had been ably laid before the Government by such eminent men as Messrs. K. G. Sesha Iyer and C. Krishna Pillai, and a Bill for the purpose had also been introduced into the Legislative Council by Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai. It was not necessary to make primary education compulsory throughout the State all at once; but the measure might be tried in two or three taluks at a time and gradually extended to the others. He requested that the matter might receive early attention.

He next requested that facilities should be afforded for teaching Commercial subjects as optional from Class IV in the Sirkar Elementary Schools. No doubt the Code made mention of those subjects, but the provision was not given practical effect. He mentioned how, in other countries, special Commercial Schools and Colleges had been started in view of the importance of the subjects in relation to trade and commerce. He requested therefore that action should be taken to insist on the subjects being taught from Class IV as optional.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

110. The necessity for establishing hostels for all the Departmental Higher Grade Secondary Schools in the State.

Mr. P. K. Koshi (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) said that the educational care of the State did not stop with ministering to the intellect. An atmosphere of good morals and healthy physical surroundings were recognised as indispensable for the development of the intellect itself along proper lines, and their effect on the individuals in making them the right sort of citizens was also recognised. It was from that stand-point that hostels or boarding-houses were attached to educational institutions in all civilized countries. He added that the University insisted upon the residence of all college students in hostels attached to colleges or in places approved of by the local college authorities, and that the compulsion was, in spite of the slight increase in the cost of living of individual students, found to produce good results. The Member next pointed out that 45 per cent of the pupils in the two Higher Grade Secondary Schools at Mavelikara were outsiders, and that, in the bigger towns, the proportion of outsiders would be greater. They generally messed in hotels where unwholesome food was served, and they lived in dingy unhealthy sheds. They were also left to take care

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly